

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 779

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to increase the number of physicians that complete a fellowship in geriatric medicine and geriatric psychiatry, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 22, 1997

Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. GLENN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to increase the number of physicians that complete a fellowship in geriatric medicine and geriatric psychiatry, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Medicare Physician
5 Workforce Improvement Act of 1997”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

1 (1) The Institute of Medicine, the Alliance for
2 Aging Research, the National Institute on Aging,
3 and the Council on Graduate Medical Education
4 have reported that there is a critical shortage of cer-
5 tified geriatricians.

6 (2) The average total educational debt that a
7 physician who completes required training including
8 a fellowship in geriatric medicine or geriatric psychi-
9 atry in order to become a certified geriatrician ex-
10 ceeds \$75,000, and the current reimbursement pol-
11 icy for these physicians creates significant financial
12 disincentives to entering the practice of geriatric
13 medicine and geriatric psychiatry.

14 (3) It is essential that physicians that provide
15 clinical services to elderly individuals be trained in
16 the range of settings in which medical care is deliv-
17 ered in order to provide those services appropriately.

18 **SEC. 3. GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION FUNDING.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1886(h)(4) of the Social
20 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(h)(4)) is amended by
21 adding at the end the following:

22 “(F) GERIATRIC PROGRAMS.—

23 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The rules estab-
24 lished under this paragraph shall specify
25 that a resident that is enrolled in a fellow-

1 ship in geriatric medicine or geriatric psy-
2 chiatry within an approved medical resi-
3 dency training program shall be, for the
4 computation of the number of full-time-
5 equivalent residents in an approved medi-
6 cal residency training program, counted 2
7 times for the period such resident is en-
8 rolled in such fellowship.

9 “(ii) LIMITATION.—The number of
10 residents that are counted 2 times for the
11 computation of the number of full-time-
12 equivalent residents in an approved medi-
13 cal residency training program under
14 clause (i) shall not exceed 400 in any cal-
15 endar year.”.

16 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
17 subsection (a) shall apply to cost reporting periods begin-
18 ning on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

19 **SEC. 4. DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS TO INCREASE THE**
20 **NUMBER OF GERIATRICIANS.**

21 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

22 (1) GERIATRIC TRAINING CONSORTIUM.—The
23 term “geriatric training consortium” means a State,
24 regional, or local entity that—

1 (A) is developed and supported by an ac-
2 credited geriatric training program;

3 (B) consists of—

4 (i) a teaching hospital;

5 (ii) a skilled nursing facility; and

6 (iii) an ambulatory care or commu-
7 nity-based facility, such as a community
8 clinic, a day treatment program, a hospice
9 program, a managed care organization, or
10 a rehabilitation facility; and

11 (C) is organized for—

12 (i) the training of residents enrolled in
13 formal postgraduate training programs in
14 geriatric medicine or geriatric psychiatry;
15 and

16 (ii) the provision of appropriate train-
17 ing experiences in the care of elderly indi-
18 viduals to residents in primary care dis-
19 ciplines and other health professionals.

20 (2) PRIMARY CARE.—The term “primary care”
21 means family medicine, general internal medicine,
22 general pediatrics, preventive medicine, geriatric
23 medicine, and osteopathic general practice.

24 (3) RESIDENT.—The term “resident” has the
25 meaning given such term in section 1886(h)(5)(I) of

1 the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
2 1395ww(h)(5)(I)).

3 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
4 the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

5 (b) DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—

6 (1) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary, through geri-
7atric training consortia, shall establish and conduct
8 5 demonstration projects to increase the number of
9 certified geriatricians that are appropriately trained
10 to provide items and services to beneficiaries under
11 title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
12 1395 et seq.) in a range of patient settings. In con-
13 ducting demonstration projects under this section,
14 the Secretary shall make payments for the indirect
15 costs of medical education and the direct graduate
16 medical education costs relating to the training of
17 residents to the geriatric training consortia carrying
18 out the projects.

19 (2) APPLICATION.—Any geriatric training con-
20 sortium seeking to conduct a demonstration project
21 under this section shall submit to the Secretary an
22 application at such time, in such form and manner,
23 and containing such information as the Secretary
24 may require.

1 (c) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may waive
2 compliance with any requirement of titles XI, XVIII, and
3 XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1301 et seq.,
4 1395 et seq., 1396 et seq.) which, if applied, would prevent
5 a demonstration project carried out under this section
6 from effectively achieving the purpose of the project.

7 (d) ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning 1 year after the
9 date of enactment of this Act, and annually there-
10 after, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a re-
11 port that evaluates the effectiveness of the dem-
12 onstration projects conducted under this section and
13 that contains any legislative recommendations deter-
14 mined appropriate by the Secretary.

15 (2) CONTINUATION OR REPLICATION OF DEM-
16 ONSTRATION PROJECTS.—Beginning 3 years after
17 the date of enactment of this Act, the report re-
18 quired under paragraph (1) shall include rec-
19 ommendations regarding whether the demonstration
20 projects conducted under this section should be con-
21 tinued and whether broad replication of the project
22 should be initiated.

23 (e) DURATION.—A demonstration project under this
24 section shall be conducted for a period of not more than
25 5 years. The Secretary may terminate a project if the Sec-

1 retary determines that the consortium conducting the
2 project is not in substantial compliance with the terms of
3 the application approved by the Secretary.

4 (f) FUNDING.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide
6 for the transfer from the Federal Hospital Insurance
7 Trust Fund and the Federal Supplementary Insur-
8 ance Trust Fund under title XVIII of the Social Se-
9 curity Act (42 U.S.C. 1395i, 1395t), in such propor-
10 tions as the Secretary determines to be appropriate,
11 of such funds as are necessary for the costs of carry-
12 ing out the demonstration projects under this sec-
13 tion.

14 (2) LIMITATION.—

15 (A) IN GENERAL.—With respect to any
16 year that a demonstration project is conducted
17 under this section, the total amount paid to
18 such a demonstration project shall not exceed
19 the lesser of—

20 (i) an amount described in subpara-
21 graph (B); or

22 (ii) \$1,000,000.

23 (B) AMOUNT DESCRIBED.—An amount de-
24 scribed in this subparagraph is an amount
25 equal to the number of geriatric fellows enrolled

1 in a geriatric training consortium for that year
2 multiplied by the amount that the hospital that
3 is part of that geriatric training consortium
4 conducting the demonstration project received
5 under the medicare program under title XVIII
6 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et
7 seq.) for the indirect costs of medical education
8 and for direct graduate medical education costs
9 for each full-time-equivalent resident during the
10 hospital's most recent cost reporting period, de-
11 termined without regard to section
12 1886(h)(4)(F) of that Act (42 U.S.C.
13 1395ww(h)(4)(F)) (as added by section 3), and
14 determined as of the date the Secretary appro-
15 priates the funds for the demonstration project
16 for that year.

○